



Newsletter: April 2012 Douglas McFalls

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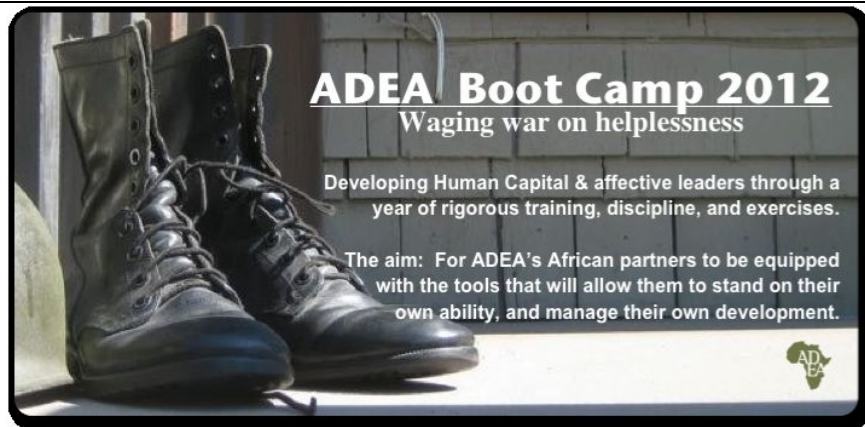
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What a glorious success!

and they did it 100% on their own.

This past Saturday, April 14, the ADEA Boot Camp (ABC) participants implemented their proposed and budgeted “Artisan Encouragement Meeting”. The purpose of the meeting was for the artisans of ADEA to feel that the leadership cared about them. This issue of caring about the wellbeing of everyone from clients to producers is a foundational teaching in ABC training. In order to achieve this, the ABC artisan leader participants elected to include the entire production team (around 40) in the discoveries, teaching and games they have been enjoying at ABC.

Though they developed a time schedule several weeks prior, it was lean on details. So to begin the Wednesday ABC class (after the usual introductions and English class) I left them on their own to consider every detail of the day: who would say what and how much time they should have to say it. Even the opening joke should be chosen thoughtfully. They spent two and a half hours preparing. As a result the Saturday morning activities went like clockwork.

The morning went something like this:

Introduction by the Sarah Ligombaji (tailor), with summary of morning topics:

- Mudi ni Mali – Time is Money
- Kujali Wengini – Caring about Others
- Ubora za Bidha Letu – The Quality of our Products
- Komputa – Computer Use
- Kiingereza – English

- A Learning Game – Sudoku

Group Introductions: Next everyone was paired up to interview each other, then proceeded to introduce the other to the group.



Next came **“Hadithi Hadithi”**, the **“humorous” story/joke/lesson.**

After a certain war there were solders that were a bit crazy from the shock of fighting. These men were being taken by army helicopter to a camp to recover. One solder had brought a football (soccer ball for you in the USA) and the men began a match in the helicopter. As one might expect, this caused disturbance to the pilot, who went to the rear cabin to learn what was going on. When he entered the cabin he found the men raucously playing ball. That is all the men save one who was sitting quietly in a corner by himself. The pilot thought to himself, “This man seems to be the sanest of them all. So I shall ask him to try to make the men stop disturbing the helicopter.” The man agreed and the pilot returned to the cockpit. Before long the helicopter became stable and the rear cabin quiet. Pleased, the pilot returned to back cabin to thanks the man. When the captain entered the rear cabin he found it empty except for the man he had spoken to. In shock the pilot asked, “Where are the other solders?” To which the solitary soldier replied, “I told them they were upsetting the captain with their football match, and I urged them go outside to play.”

Moral of the story: be careful to whom you entrust leadership.



English Classes: the ABC participants split up the large group to teach the artisan how to do basic English introductions: My name is ___, I come from ___, I am ___ years old, I am a ___. This was followed by the requisite distribution of soda (their reward for trying to speak English). Next came the primary school teaching video we occasionally use in class.

Tumaina, our Kenyan Maasai ABC delegate, lead them in repetitions. (A tragic result of the low quality of education in Tanzania means a person can finish primary school without even knowing the alphabet.)



Muda Ni Mali: Msuao Tiago (carver) sporting the navy blue double breasted suit I gave him the week prior, (it had seen only one day of use by me in 8 years),



talked about the concept that “Time is Money”, and that the lack of respect of time meant not only the loss of money for the artisans, but potentially ADEA as a whole because of dissatisfied clients with a delayed order.

Ubora: Charles Msoga (painter) spoke on the importance of maintaining high quality in order to maintain clients and the reputation of being suppliers of high quality gifts and products, and how as with time, ADEA could loose clients due to the dissatisfaction of the quality of one artisan’s work.

Back Up Producers: Sarah Ligombaji (tailor)– The unofficial leader of the team – spoke of the introduction of second and third producers of each product. This will allow us to respond more quickly to large orders, to have alternative producers if the primary producer is unavailable, and to instill some competition that will motivate the primary producer to maintain the quality of their work.



Jennifer Ndegewa (tailor) spoke on “**ADEA ni yetu zote**” – “ADEA belongs to all of us”. She emphasized that ADEA does not just belong to the leaders, but to each of us, and we must each care for it. “See it even as your own, and your own opportunity to generate an income for your life. If you do not protect it, encourage it and support it, it may begin to fail, and the fault may be yours because you failed to take ownership in it and do your part to make sure it succeeds.”

All of these topics were tied into the idea of conscientiously caring about the wellbeing of others, a principle that the artisans noted is absent in the culture of Tanzania.



At the conclusion of all this talk came the chance to break up into smaller groups to introduce the using a computer and the Soduko game. Most had never touched a computer, nor played this sort of mind challenging game.

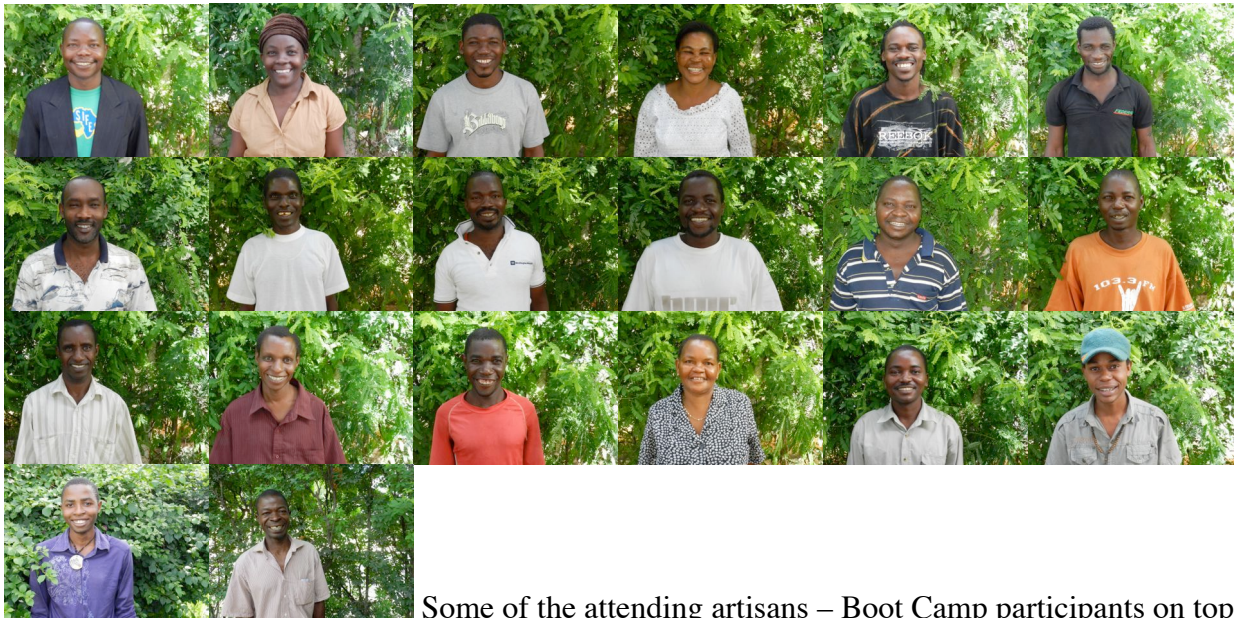


The meeting ended four hours later with artisans receiving money for orders they produced, the placing of new orders and for transport to the morning meeting. The producers were engaged in the meeting, happy to see the confidence of their colleagues, and delighted to have taken their first a baby step into the world of English language and computers.

And in all this neither I nor Philipo the ADEA co-director planned or directed anything!



It is clear to me ADEA Boot Camp has been a huge success! I praise God for that. What an excellent use of my time. What an edifying experience to see the artisan leadership take the lead.



Some of the attending artisans – Boot Camp participants on top



WELCOME VISITORS:

In April I enjoyed the visit of my nephew Matt and his wife Emily, who are teaching English in UAE for the year. It was great fun to see family and give them a true picture of what they'd be hearing about for years. Their teaching skill added new energy to the English classes! I welcome Amy, David and Kevin in June!

THE ATTACK OF THE KONO KONO!

Over Easter weekend I vowed to procrastinate no longer and plant some of the flower and herb seeds I'd purchased for my garden back in December: basil, chives, zinnias and impatiens. I filled some handmade earthen pots for my courtyard garden, and added composted soil to my tub-sized raised flowerbed outside. And so, after a short two hours of work, what I'd put off for months was finally done. In as few as three or four days I should expect to see some young leaves (as is common in the tropics here). And indeed, on the afternoon of day three I saw my first seeding sprout! Yippy – garden beautification had begun. Eagerly I visited my pots and garden on the morning of day four only to discover, to my horror, voracious baby kono kono snails, no bigger than the leg of a staple, making a meal of my garden-to-be. I made a panicked attempt to eradicate them with agricultural pest killer, but this proved futile as they returned en masse on day five. I was defeated in less than a week. To this day my pots and flowerbed remain as un-verdant as ever, reminding me that had I planted sooner, I might have missed the kono kono birthing season, and would be enjoying the delights of flora eye-candy. For now my bed remains empty.

BLOWN DOWN MAASAI SCHOOL



In February, a windstorm swept across the Rombo region of Kenya removing rooftops and causing the partial collapse of the Maasai Boma School wooden classroom structure. The Pillar of Maasai Development and school leadership are looking for financial help to repair the damaged building at an estimated cost of \$2000.

Many thanks for those of you who responded to this need.

**Contributions can be made through ADEA USA. Pay Pal is available on
ADEAAfrica.org**

Spiritual Note:

Choosing to see the unexpected as blessings



This is my Mtwara family, Tumaina and Tembo on the bottom, and Filbert and Daudi above along with baby Shamah and his mother. And the proud father is my first “son” Daudi. Daudi, a man who deeply loves the Lord and his faith found himself at in a very lonely and troubling season about ten months ago. In that time he made some choices that resulted in a lovely baby boy. Daudi is now restored to his community and his family in a wonderful way. He regained his desire to work and minister in the Mtwara region with the additional joy of providing for and raising his son. He hopes to open a shop soon. I can see this unexpected child as a blessing from God that will ground him and encouraging him into adulthood. I guess this kind of makes me a granddad!

And here ends my latest email. Many thanks to many of you for your support and friendship. We were able to launch Part I of Boot Camp due to supporters and sales at Christmas time. Additional support is needed to continue this work, as is appreciated.

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Sincerely, *Douglas. Kupikita. Oloikurrukurr*